

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A system for managing the transmission of distributable content, comprising:

a collection engine, the collection engine configured to receive distributable content from at least one content provider via a first network;

content storage, the content storage communicating with the collection engine to store the distributable content; and

an interface to a second network communicating with a subscriber, the subscriber selectively receiving the distributable content from the collection storage via the second network.
2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the first network comprises a communication link via the Internet.
3. A system according to claim 2, wherein the communication link comprises a backbone link.
4. A system according to claim 1, wherein the collection engine comprises a digital subscriber line access multiplexer.
5. A system according to claim 4, wherein the second network comprises a digital subscriber line connection.
6. A system according to claim 1, wherein the collection engine comprises a cable head end.

7. A system according to claim 6, wherein the second network comprises a cable modem connection.
8. A system according to claim 1, wherein the collection engine comprises a wireless interface.
9. A system according to claim 8, wherein the second network comprises at least one of an 802.11a, an 802.11b, and an 802.11g interface.
10. A system according to claim 1, wherein the collection engine comprises a central telephone office.
11. A system according to claim 10, wherein the second network comprises a dial up modem connection.
12. A system according to claim 1, wherein the collection engine comprises an optical head end.
13. A system according to claim 12, wherein the second network comprises a fiber optic connection.
14. A system according to claim 1, wherein the collection engine comprises a server.
15. A system according to claim 14, wherein the second network comprises at least one of a local area network, a wide area network, and a metropolitan area network.

16. A system according to claim 1, wherein the content storage comprises a database.
17. A system according to claim 1, wherein the subscriber selectively receives the distributable content at scheduled times.
18. A system according to claim 1, wherein the subscriber selectively receives the distributable content at a viewing device.
19. A system according to claim 18, wherein the viewing device comprises at least one of a computer, a television, and a programmable video recording device.
20. A system according to claim 18, wherein the viewing device comprises local storage.
21. A system according to claim 20, wherein the distributable content is stored in the local storage.
22. A system according to claim 21, wherein the distributable content stored in the local storage is configured to expire after a predetermined time.
23. A system according to claim 21, wherein reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage is selectively controlled.
24. A system according to claim 23, wherein the selective control of the reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage comprises digital rights management.

25. A system according to claim 18, wherein the subscriber activates the viewing of the distributable content at the viewing device via a key mechanism.
26. A system according to claim 25, wherein the key mechanism comprises authentication via the first network.
27. A system according to claim 1, wherein the distributable content comprises digitally encoded content.
28. A system according to claim 27, wherein the digitally encoded content comprises at least one of digitally encoded video, digitally encoded graphics, digitally encoded audio, and computer software.
29. A system according to claim 1, wherein the subscriber subscribes to the at least one content provider.
30. A system according to claim 1, wherein the subscriber selectively receives the distributable content on a pay-per-use basis.
31. A system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one content provider comprises more than one content provider.
32. A system according to claim 1, wherein the collection engine receives the distributable content from the at least one content provider based on a predetermined schedule.
33. A system according to claim 1, wherein the collection engine receives the distributable content from the at least one content provider on a usage demand basis.

34. A method for managing the transmission of distributable content, comprising:
receiving distributable content from at least one content provider via a first network;
storing the distributable content in content storage; and
selectively communicating the distributable content from the content storage to a subscriber via a second network.
35. A method according to claim 34, wherein the first network comprises a communication link via the Internet.
36. A method according to claim 35, wherein the communication link comprises a backbone link.
37. A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content comprises a step of receiving the distributable content in a digital subscriber line access multiplexer.
38. A method according to claim 37, wherein the second network comprises a digital subscriber line connection.
39. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content comprises a step of receiving the distributable content in a cable head end.
40. A method according to claim 39, wherein the second network comprises a cable modem connection.

41. A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content comprises a step of receiving the distributable content in a wireless interface station.

42. A method according to claim 41, wherein the second network comprises at least one of an 802.11a, an 802.11b, and an 802.11g interface.

43. A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content comprises a step of receiving the distributable content in a central telephone office.

44. A method according to claim 43, wherein the second network comprises a dial up modem connection.

45. A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content comprises a step of receiving the distributable content in an optical head end.

46. A method according to claim 45, wherein the second network comprises a fiber optic connection.

47. A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content comprises a step of receiving the distributable content in a server.

48. A method according to claim 45, wherein the second network comprises at least one of a local area network, a wide area network, and a metropolitan area network.

49. A method according to claim 34, wherein the content storage comprises a database.
50. A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of selectively communicating comprises a step of receiving the distributable content at scheduled times.
51. A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of selectively communicating comprises a step of receiving the distributable content at a viewing device.
52. A method according to claim 51, wherein the viewing device comprises at least one of a computer, a television, and a programmable video recording device.
53. A method according to claim 51, wherein the viewing device comprises local storage.
54. A method according to claim 53, further comprising a step of storing the distributable content on the local storage.
55. A method according to claim 54, wherein the distributable content stored in the local storage is configured to expire after a predetermined time.
56. A method according to claim 54, further comprising a step of selectively controlling reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage.

57. A method according to claim 56, wherein the step of selectively controlling the reproduction of the distributable content comprises a step of executing a digital rights management module.

58. A method according to claim 51, further comprising a step of activating the viewing of the distributable content at the viewing device via a key mechanism.

59. A method according to claim 58, wherein the key mechanism comprises authentication via the first network.

60. A method according to claim 34, wherein the distributable content comprises digitally encoded content.

61. A method according to claim 60, wherein the digitally encoded content comprises at least one of digitally encoded video, digitally encoded graphics, digitally encoded audio, and computer software.

62. A method according to claim 34, wherein the subscriber of the distributable content subscribes to the at least one content provider.

63. A method according to claim 34, wherein the subscriber of the distributable content selectively receives the distributable content on a pay-per-use basis.

64. A method according to claim 34, wherein the at least one content provider comprises more than one content provider.

65. A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content from the at least one content provider comprises a step of

receiving the distributable content from the at least one content provider based on a predetermined schedule.

66. A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content from the at least one content provider comprises a step of receiving the distributable content from the at least one content provider on a usage demand basis.

67. A system for managing the transmission of distributable content, comprising:
content collection means for receiving distributable content from at least one content provider via first network means;
content storage means, communicating with the content collection means, for storing the distributable content; and
interface means for communicating with second network means
communicating with a subscriber, the subscriber selectively receiving the distributable content from the content storage means via the second network means.

68. A system according to claim 67, wherein the first network means comprises a communication link via the Internet.

69. A system according to claim 68, wherein the communication link comprises a backbone link.

70. A system according to claim 67, wherein the content collection means comprises at least one of digital subscriber line access multiplexer means, cable head end means, wireless interface means, central telephone office means, and server means.

71. A system according to claim 67, wherein the content storage means comprises database means.

72. A system according to claim 67, wherein the subscriber selectively receives the distributable content at scheduled times.

73. A system according to claim 67, wherein the subscriber selectively receives the distributable content at viewing means.

74. A system according to claim 73, wherein the viewing means comprises at least one of computer means, television means, and programmable video recording means.

75. A system according to claim 74, wherein the viewing means comprises local storage means.

76. A system according to claim 75, wherein the distributable content is stored in the local storage means.

77. A system according to claim 67, wherein the subscriber activates the viewing of the distributable content at the viewing means via a key mechanism.

78. A system according to claim 67, wherein the distributable content comprises digitally encoded content.

79. A system according to claim 78, wherein the digitally encoded content comprises at least one of digitally encoded video, digitally encoded graphics, digitally encoded audio, and computer software.

80. A computer readable medium, the computer readable medium being readable by a computer to execute a method of managing the transmission of distributable content, the method comprising:

receiving distributable content from at least one content provider via a first network;

storing the distributable content in content storage; and

selectively communicating the distributable content from the content storage to a subscriber via a second network.

81. A computer readable medium according to claim 80, wherein the first network comprises a communication link via the Internet.

82. A computer readable medium according to claim 81, wherein the communication link comprises a backbone link.

83. A computer readable medium according to claim 80, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content comprises a step of receiving the distributable content in at least one of a digital subscriber line access multiplexer, a cable head end, a wireless interface, a central telephone office, and a server.

84. A computer readable medium according to claim 80, wherein the content storage comprises a database.

85. A computer readable medium according to claim 80, wherein the step of selectively communicating comprises a step of selectively receiving the distributable content at scheduled times.

86. A computer readable medium according to claim 80, wherein the step of selectively communicating comprises a step of selectively receiving the distributable content at a viewing device.

87. A computer readable medium according to claim 86, wherein the viewing device comprises at least one of a computer, a television, and a programmable video recording device.

88. A computer readable medium according to claim 86, wherein the viewing device comprises local storage.

89. A computer readable medium according to claim 88, wherein the method further comprises a step of storing the distributable content in the local storage.

90. A computer readable medium according to claim 86, wherein the method further comprises a step of activating the viewing of the distributable content at the viewing device via a key mechanism.

91. A computer readable medium according to claim 80, wherein the distributable content comprises digitally encoded content.

92. A computer readable medium according to claim 91, wherein the digitally encoded content comprises at least one of digitally encoded video, digitally encoded graphics, digitally encoded audio, and computer software.

93. A system for receiving a transmission of distributable content, comprising:
an interface to a network communicating with content storage, the content storage storing distributable content received from at least one content provider for

transmission to a subscriber;

a user interface, the user interface configured to permit the subscriber to selectively receive the distributable content; and

an interface to a viewing device for viewing the distributable content.

94. A system according to claim 93, wherein the interface to the network comprises at least one of a digital subscriber line access multiplexer, a cable head end, a wireless interface, a central telephone office, a local area network, a wide area network, and a metropolitan area network.

95. A system according to claim 93, wherein the user interface is configured to permit the subscriber to selectively receive the distributable content at selected times.

96. A system according to claim 93, wherein the user interface is configured to permit the subscriber to selectively receive the distributable content as a background task.

97. A system according to claim 93, wherein the user interface comprises a viewing authorization module.

98. A system according to claim 97, wherein the viewing authorization module comprises a key authorization mechanism.

99. A system according to claim 93, wherein the viewing device comprises local storage to store the distributable content.

100. A system according to claim 99, wherein reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage is selectively controlled.

101. A system according to claim 100, wherein the selective control of the reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage comprises digital rights management.

102. A system according to claim 93, wherein the subscriber subscribes to the at least one content provider.

103. A system according to claim 93, wherein the subscriber selectively receives the distributable content on a pay-per-use basis.

104. A system according to claim 93, wherein the distributable content comprises digitally encoded content.

105. A system according to claim 104, wherein the digitally encoded content comprises at least one of digitally encoded video, digitally encoded graphics, digitally encoded audio, and computer software.

106. A system according to claim 93, wherein the viewing device comprises at least one of a computer, a television, and a programmable video recording device.

107. A method for managing the receipt of distributable content, comprising:
connecting to a network communicating with content storage, the content storage storing distributable content received from at least one content provider for transmission to a subscriber;
presenting a user interface to permit the subscriber to selectively receive the distributable content; and
generating an output of the distributable content to view on a viewing device.

108. A method according to claim 107, wherein the step of connecting to a network comprises connecting to at least one of a digital subscriber line access multiplexer, a cable head end, a wireless interface, a central telephone office, a local area network, a wide area network, and a metropolitan area network.

109. A method according to claim 107, wherein the step of presenting a user interface comprises a step of presenting selectable options to permit the subscriber to receive the distributable content at selected times.

110. A method according to claim 107, wherein the step of presenting a user interface comprises a step of presenting selectable options to permit the subscriber to selectively receive the distributable content as a background task.

111. A method according to claim 107, wherein the step of presenting a user interface comprises a step of executing a viewing authorization module.

112. A method according to claim 111, wherein the step of executing a viewing authorization module comprises a step of executing a key authorization mechanism.

113. A method according to claim 107, wherein the viewing device comprises local storage to store the distributable content.

114. A method according to claim 113, further comprising a step of selectively controlling the reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage.

115. A method according to claim 14, wherein the step of selectively controlling the reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage comprises executing a digital rights management module.

116. A method according to claim 107, wherein the subscriber subscribes to the at least one content provider.

117. A method according to claim 107, wherein the subscriber selectively receives the distributable content on a pay-per-use basis.

118. A method according to claim 107, wherein the distributable content comprises digitally encoded content.

119. A method according to claim 118, wherein the digitally encoded content comprises at least one of digitally encoded video, digitally encoded graphics, digitally encoded audio, and computer software.

120. A method according to claim 107, wherein the viewing device comprises at least one of a computer, a television, and a programmable video recording device.

121. A system for receiving a transmission of distributable content, comprising:
first interface means for interfacing to a network communicating with content storage means, the content storage means for storing distributable content received from at least one content provider for transmission to a subscriber;
user interface means for permitting a subscriber to selectively receive the distributable content; and
second interface means for interfacing to viewing means for viewing the distributable content.

122. A system according to claim 121, wherein the first interface means comprises at least one of digital subscriber line access multiplexer means, cable head end means,

wireless interface means, central telephone office means, local area network means, wide area network means, and metropolitan area network means.

123. A system according to claim 121, wherein the user interface means is configured to permit the subscriber to selectively receive the distributable content at selected times.

124. A system according to claim 121, wherein the user interface means is configured to permit the subscriber to selectively receive the distributable content as a background task.

125. A system according to claim 121, wherein the user interface means comprises viewing authorization means.

126. A system according to claim 125, wherein the viewing authorization means comprises a key authorization means.

127. A system according to claim 121, wherein the viewing means comprises local storage means to store the distributable content.

128. A system according to claim 127, wherein reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage means is selectively controlled.

129. A system according to claim 128, wherein the selective control of the reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage means comprises digital rights management.

130. A system according to claim 121, wherein the subscriber subscribes to the at least one content provider.

131. A system according to claim 121, wherein the subscriber selectively receives the distributable content on a pay-per-use basis.

132. A system according to claim 121, wherein the distributable content comprises digitally encoded content.

133. A system according to claim 132, wherein the digitally encoded content comprises at least one of digitally encoded video, digitally encoded graphics, digitally encoded audio, and computer software.

134. A system according to claim 121, wherein the viewing means comprises at least one of computer means, television means, and programmable video recording means.

135. A computer readable medium, the computer readable medium being readable by a computer to execute a method for managing the receipt of distributable content, the method comprising:

connecting to a network communicating with content storage, the content storage storing distributable content received from at least one content provider for transmission to a subscriber;

presenting a user interface to permit the subscriber to selectively receive the distributable content; and

generating an output of the distributable content to view on a viewing device.

136. A computer readable medium according to claim 135, wherein the step of connecting to a network comprises connecting to at least one of a digital subscriber line access multiplexer, a cable head end, a wireless interface, a central telephone office, a local area network, a wide area network, and a metropolitan area network.

137. A computer readable medium according to claim 135, wherein the step of presenting a user interface comprises a step of presenting selectable options to permit the subscriber to receive the distributable content at selected times.

138. A computer readable medium according to claim 135, wherein the step of presenting a user interface comprises a step of presenting selectable options to permit the subscriber to selectively receive the distributable content as a background task.

139. A computer readable medium according to claim 135, wherein the step of presenting a user interface comprises a step of executing a viewing authorization module.

140. A computer readable medium according to claim 139, wherein the step of executing a viewing authorization module comprises a step of executing a key authorization mechanism.

141. A computer readable medium according to claim 135, wherein the viewing device comprises local storage to store the distributable content.

142. A computer readable medium according to claim 141, wherein the method further comprises a step of selectively controlling the reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage.

143. A computer readable medium according to claim 142, wherein the step of selectively controlling the reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage comprises executing a digital rights management module.

144. A computer readable medium according to claim 135, wherein the subscriber subscribes to the at least one content provider.

145. A computer readable medium according to claim 135, wherein the subscriber selectively receives the distributable content on a pay-per-use basis.

146. A computer readable medium according to claim 135, wherein the distributable content comprises digitally encoded content.

147. A computer readable medium according to claim 146, wherein the digitally encoded content comprises at least one of digitally encoded video, digitally encoded graphics, digitally encoded audio, and computer software.

148. A computer readable medium according to claim 135, wherein the viewing device comprises at least one of a computer, a television, and a programmable video recording device.

149. A transmittable media object, the transmittable media object being generated according to a method of:

receiving distributable content from at least one content provider via a first network;

storing the distributable content in content storage; and

selectively communicating the distributable content from the content storage to a subscriber via a second network.

150. A transmittable media object generated according to claim 149, wherein the first network comprises a communication link via the Internet.

151. A transmittable media object generated according to claim 150, wherein the communication link comprises a backbone link.

152. A transmittable media object generated according to claim 149, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content comprises a step of receiving the distributable content in at least one of a digital subscriber line access multiplexer, a cable head end, a wireless interface, a central telephone office, and a server.

153. A transmittable media object generated according to claim 149, wherein the content storage comprises a database.

154. A transmittable media object generated according to claim 149, wherein the step of selectively communicating comprises a step of selectively receiving the distributable content at scheduled times.

155. A transmittable media object generated according to claim 149, wherein the step of selectively communicating comprises a step of selectively receiving the distributable content at a viewing device.

156. A transmittable media object generated according to claim 155, wherein the viewing device comprises at least one of a computer, a television, and a programmable video recording device.

157. A transmittable media object generated according to claim 155, wherein the viewing device comprises local storage.

158. A transmittable media object generated according to claim 157, wherein the method further comprises a step of storing the distributable content in the local storage.

159. A transmittable media object generated according to claim 149, wherein the method further comprises a step of activating the viewing of the distributable content at the viewing device via a key mechanism.

160. A transmittable media object generated according to claim 149, wherein the distributable content comprises digitally encoded content.

161. A transmittable media object generated according to claim 160, wherein the digitally encoded content comprises at least one of digitally encoded video, digitally encoded graphics, digitally encoded audio, and computer software.